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USIB-D-46.4/31
(COMIREX-D-13.16/6)
7 August 1969
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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : COMIREX Review of Guidance for NRP Planning

REFERENCE : USIB-D-46.4/12, 1 March 1968, Limited
Distribution (Approved and recorded in
USIB-M-500, Secretary's Note #1,
14 March 1968)

1. The attached memorandum from the Chairman, Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX), submitting comments on requirements for the collection of reconnaissance imagery "that should be considered in the next NRP budget and in the five-year plan", is in response to the directive from the Chairman, United States Intelligence Board (USIB) as circulated in Tab C of the reference. COMIREX advises that submission of this report has been delayed to accommodate a recent NRO request for interim guidance on the need for very high resolution imagery.

2. The subject report:

a. Reaffirms the general USIB guidance submitted in February 1969 for NRO FY 70 planning and notes its applicability to longer term planning;



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NRO review(s)
completed.

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In connection with point c. COMIREX considers that NRO should continue the development of technologies that could provide a satellite system in which

[redacted] is realizable, but recognizes that final decisions on a system will depend not only on judgments as to the value [redacted]

[redacted] but also how soon the capability should be developed and, overall, the size of the effort.

COMIREX is undertaking a comprehensive study of [redacted] requirements for use in the longer term evaluation and will work with the NRO in examining the various options, their responsiveness to intelligence objectives, and the question of timing and cost.

3. It is not planned to schedule this item on a USIB agenda unless requested to do so by a member by noon 13 August 1969. [redacted] has advised the USIB Secretariat that this short deadline is required because the portion of the report involving interim guidance on the [redacted] problem is required by NRO prior to the EXCOM meeting of 15 August.

4. In the absence of such a request, it will be recorded as of that date that USIB noted the attached COMIREX comments and referred them to the National Reconnaissance Office for information and guidance.

[redacted]
Acting Executive Secretary

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2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP78B01709A002300050006-7

USIB-D-46.4/31
(COMIREX-D-13.16/6)

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7 August 1969
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MEMORANDUM FOR: United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: COMIREX Review of Guidance for NRP Planning

REFERENCES: a. USIB-D-46.4/27 (COMIREX-D-13.16/3)
4 February 1969

b. USIB-D-46.4/12, 1 March 1968

c.

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d. USIB-D-46.4/13 (COMIREX-D-14.4/1)
27 March 1968

e. USIB-D-41.14/294 (COMOR-D-13/63)
21 June 1966

f. COMIREX-D-13.16/5, 11 June 1969

1. In February 1969 COMIREX submitted to USIB its review of requirements for the fiscal year 1970 (reference a) as the first part of the annual review of guidance for the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) requested by the USIB (reference b). The purpose of the present memorandum is to assist NRO in its review of FY 71 budget proposals and its longer range planning for the next five years. COMIREX has been working with the NRO to develop common data for use in the present review and has completed a further survey of requirements previously submitted to the Board. These are summarized as follows:

a. The February 1969 review of requirements submitted by COMIREX to the Board (reference a) continues to be an up-to-date and valid summary which is recommended for NRO use as guidance for FY 71 and as the basis for longer range planning. The NRO should additionally take into account the requirement

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b. As explained in paragraph 2 below, COMIREX anticipates that some changes will be made in the form of the search requirement which will allow more efficient utilization of the remaining CORONA vehicles.

c. The requirements for [redacted] as presented to the Board in March 1968 (reference d) remains a viable document in terms of providing the NRO a detailed statement of minimum requirements [redacted]

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2. As noted above, there may be some modification of the search requirement in the near future. NRO has developed new software for the KH-4B and in the light of this increased capability it has requested that COMIREX consider modifying the form of the search requirements to take advantage of this software (reference f). COMIREX has not yet acted on the NRO request [redacted]

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3. A deterrent to comprehensive analysis of search requirements in relation to NRO capabilities is the tenuous nature of the present launch schedule. A possible stretch-out of the KH-4B program could under some circumstances result in an underfulfillment of the KH-4 requirement as presently defined. COMIREX notes further that the KH-4B program has very little flexibility and believes that, if drastic rescheduling or operational practices are required to meet an emergency, the present search requirement could be jeopardized.

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4. In accordance with COMIREX understanding of the need to support the mapping, charting and geodetic community in obtaining data, there will be no need to assign any KH-4 mission uniquely for coverage of MC&G requirements. The normal MC&G area coverage requirements as well as those for city plans and other spot locations can be taken care of, except for previously defined bad-weather areas, by allocation of a portion of the film [redacted] and programming engineering coverage over ZI mapping requirements. [redacted] covert aircraft all-weather systems are being studied with respect to the requirement for mapping and charting data in the bad-weather areas.

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8. COMIREX concludes that the review of requirements for FY 70 (reference a) remains appropriate as general guidance. As noted in paragraphs 2 and 3 the search requirement may still need some further adjustments.

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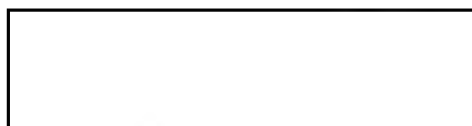


As shown in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, NRO has requested requirements guidance from COMIREX on the question of [redacted] photography. Interim guidance has been provided, in accordance with paragraph 6, and further interaction with NRO is planned.

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9. Recommendation. It is recommended that the Board note this paper while approving its transmittal to NRO for guidance.

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Chairman

Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

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